

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for inspecting a group of drugs,
comprising:

- the infeed of patient and drug data;
- conveying said drugs past a camera;
- optical scanning said drugs by a camera;
- comparing said scanned drugs with said infeed;
- accepting or rejecting said drugs;
- storing data relating to said drugs in a memory; and
- inspecting several groups of drugs,

wherein each group is provided in a pack and a number of packs is connected to provide a string, wherein each string is provided with patient data, said camera inspecting said packs and the group of drugs therein, wherein the scanned image of the patient data and packs having the group of drugs therein, is entered in said memory.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said drug scan comprises the number of drugs.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said drug scans comprise the shape and/or colour of said drugs.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein both the number of drugs and the shape thereof are used for comparing.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said acceptance/ rejection comprises the application of a colour marking.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1 wherein said patient data are provided on each pack.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein before the scanning of said drugs they are subjected to a treatment for spreading them out.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said treatment comprises applying vibration.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said treatment comprises moving a brush over said pack.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of exerting a displacing engagement from above on said drugs, comprising an annular movement in a plane essentially parallel with a carrier on which the drugs are placed.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein said step of exerting a displacing engagement comprises exerting resilient engagement in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 10 wherein said annular movement comprises a circular movement.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the central axis of rotation is essentially at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein said objects are displaced during spreading in the plane of said carrier.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A device for inspecting a string of interconnected drug packs comprising:

an infeed for a string of packs;

conveyance means for said packs;

a camera for scanning the drugs in said packs;

a discharge for said string of packs;

an input for patient/drug data;

a comparison device for comparing said patient/drug data with said camera scans;

scanning means for scanning of said patient data; and

storage means for storing said patient scans and said drug scans.

Claim 16.(previously presented): The device according to claim 15, wherein said conveyance means comprise a circulating belt with infeed and discharge provided near each other.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The device according to claim 15, wherein said scanning means comprise said camera, said camera being configured to scan ~~and also means for storing its scan~~ in a mirror image.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, wherein said camera comprises a first light source for determining the patient data and the number of drugs, and a second light source for determining the colour and/or shape of said drug scans.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The device according to claim 15, further comprising means for spreading drugs lying next to/on top of one another, comprising a carrier for said drugs, as well as a spreading device disposed above said carrier and engaging on said objects, said spreading device comprising a cam-shaped part, which in the unloaded state is disposed directly above said carrier with clearance and is designed in such a manner that it is

fastened to a drive in order to allow said cam-shaped part to follow a continuous path lying in a plane parallel to and above said carrier.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said means comprise two spreading devices arranged next to one another.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said cam-shaped part is resiliently displaceable in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said drive comprises a rotating motor provided with an arm which is at right angles to the direction of rotation and connected to the rotation shaft and on which said cam-shaped part is arranged.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said drive comprises a rotating motor, a transmission connected to the rotation shaft thereof and an auxiliary arm which is driven by said transmission and extends essentially at right angles to said carrier and is fitted with said arm on which the said cam parts are arranged.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein said cam-shaped parts are arranged on an arm, said arm being rotatable about a first central axis of rotation, said arm being arranged on an auxiliary arm, said auxiliary arm being rotatable about a second central axis of rotation, said first and second central axes of rotation being at a distance from each other and running parallel to each other.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The device according to claim 24, wherein two arms with cam-shaped parts are arranged on said auxiliary arms.

Claim 26 (new): Method for inspecting several groups of drugs, wherein each group is provided in a pack and a number of packs is connected to provide a patient specific string, wherein patient data are provided on each pack, the method comprising:

- the infeed of patient and drug data;
- conveying said drugs past a camera;
- optical scanning said drugs by a camera, said camera inspecting said packs and the group of drugs therein;
- comparing said scanned drugs with said in-feed; and
- accepting or rejecting said drugs based on the inspection;

wherein data relating to said drugs are stored in a memory, and the scanned image of the patient data and packs having the group of drugs therein, is entered in said memory for providing proof of the state of each pack at the time of inspection.

Claim 27. (new): Method according to Claim 26, in which said drug scan comprises the number of drugs.

Claim 28. (new): Method according to claim 26, in which said drug scans comprise the shape and/or colour of said drugs.

Claim 29. (new): Method according to claim 26, wherein both the number of drugs and the shape thereof are used for comparing.

Claim 30. (new): Method according to claim 26, in which said acceptance/rejection comprises the application of a colour marking.

Claim 31. (new): Method according to claim 26, in which said patient data are provided on each pack.

Claim 32. (new): Method according to claim 26, in which before the scanning of said drugs they are subjected to a treatment for spreading them out.

Claim 33. (new): . Method according to claim 32, further comprising vibrating.

Claim 34 (new): Method according to claim 32, further comprising moving with a brush over said pack.

Claim 35. (new): Method according to one of claim 32, further comprising exerting a displacing engagement from above on said drugs, comprising an annular movement in a plane essentially parallel with a carrier on which the drugs are placed.

Claim 36. (new): Method according to claim 35, said engagement comprising resilient engagement in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 37. (new): Method according to claim 35, in which said annular movement comprises a circular movement.

Claim 38 (new): Method according to claim 37, in which the central axis of rotation is essentially at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 39 (new): . Method according to claim 26, in which said objects are displaced during spreading in the plane of said carrier.

Claim 40. (new): Device for inspecting a patient specific string (10) of interconnected drug packs (15), comprising:

an infeed (6) for a string of packs (15), wherein patient data are provided on each pack;

conveyance means (4) for said packs;

a camera (2) for scanning the drugs in said packs;

a discharge (7) for said string of packs; and

an input (19) for patient/drug data,

wherein scanning means are present for scanning of said patient data, and also a comparison device (3) for comparing said patient/drug data with said camera scans, and

wherein storage means (3, 5, 8) are provided for storing said patient data scans and said drug scans for providing proof of the state of each pack at the time of inspection.

Claim 41 (new): Device according to claim 40, in which said conveyance means comprise a circulating belt with infeed (6) and discharge (7) provided near each other.

Claim 42. (new): Device according to claim 40, in which said scanning means comprise said camera (2) for storing its scan in a mirror image.

Claim 43. (new): Device according to claim 40, in which said camera comprises a first light source (16) for determining the patient data and the number of drugs, and a second light source (24) for determining the colour and/or shape of said drug scans.

Claim 44. (new): Device according to claim 40, further comprising means for spreading drugs lying next to/on top of one another, comprising a carrier (42) for said drugs, as well as a spreading device (41) disposed above said carrier and engaging on said objects, said spreading device comprising a cam-shaped part (46), which in the unloaded state is disposed directly above said carrier with clearance (a) and is designed in such a manner that it is fastened to a drive (52) in order to allow said cam-shaped part to follow a continuous path lying in a plane parallel to and above said carrier.

Claim 45. (new): Device according to claim 44, in which said means comprise two spreading devices arranged next to one another.

Claim 46. (new): Device according to claim 44, in which said cam-shaped part is resiliently displaceable in a direction at right angles to said carrier.

Claim 47. (new): Device according to claim 44, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor (52) provided with an arm (48) which is at right angles to the direction of rotation and connected to the rotation shaft and on which said cam-shaped part is arranged.

Claim 48. (new): Device according to claim 44, in which said drive comprises a rotating motor, a transmission (51) connected to the rotation shaft thereof and an auxiliary arm (54) which is driven by said transmission and extends essentially at right angles to said carrier and is fitted with said arm (48) on which the said cam parts (46) are arranged.

Claim 49. (new): Device according to claim 44, in which said cam-shaped parts (46) are arranged on an arm (48), said arm being rotatable about a first central axis of rotation (53), said arm being arranged on an auxiliary arm (54), said auxiliary arm being rotatable about a second central axis of rotation (55), said first and second central axes of rotation being at a distance from each other and running parallel to each other.

Claim 50. (new): Device according to claim 24, in which two arms with cam-shaped parts are arranged on said auxiliary arms.

Claim 51. (new): The device according to claim 15, further comprising means for spreading out of said drugs disposed prior to said scanning means.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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